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Targeting Erosion Control: Delivering Technical and Financial Assistance

by James Nielson

In 1981, the U.S. Department of Agriculture initiated a national program to target conservation efforts on critical resource problem areas. The key agencies in designing and implementing the program are the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS). While USDA targeted several areas of resource problems, this research project addresses only programs for controlling water erosion on cropland. It studies the targeting program in detail in one State in each of the four major water erosion areas designated by USDA.

Data in this report are based mainly on personal interviews with 709 farmers, telephone surveys of SCS district conservationists and ASCS county executive directors, and personal interviews with conservation professionals and others. The report describes what was done in carrying out targeting pro-

grams at the national level and in selected States and counties, gives reactions to targeting from those who implemented it and those affected by it, presents findings on various facets of the organization and operation of the delivery system, and offers suggestions for improving the system.

Single copies of this report are available, while supplies last, from EMS Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 208, 1301 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20005-4788.

Recent Soil Surveys Polished

by the Soil Conservation Service

Alabama: St. Clair County.
Iowa: Dubuque County.
Michigan: Missaukee County.
Nebraska: Nemaha County.
New Mexico: Mora County.
Oklahoma: Grant County.
Pennsylvania: Wayne County.
South Dakota: Brule and Buffalo
Counties, and Potter County.
Texas: Denton and Zavala
Counties, and Webb County.
Virginia: Giles County, Middlesex
County, and Virginia Beach.

